



Education Finance Reform

Joint Legislative Task Force Meeting
January 31, 2018



Overview

- Rowan County
- Population: 139,933
- Rural/urban
- Almost 30% of children are food insecure (lack enough food to meet very basic needs)
- Key comparative statistics (*Census data*):

	Rowan County	North Carolina	United States
Per capita income	\$23,866	\$28,156	\$31,128
Persons below poverty line	16.4%	15.4%	14.1%
Children below poverty line	27.0%	22.0%	19.0%
Education Attainment (at least Bachelor's Degree)	19.8%	30.4%	31.3%



Existing Funding System-*Likes*

- Position allotments for classroom teachers, school administrators and instructional support personnel
- Student-based allotments (particularly at-risk)
- District-based allotments (specifically low-wealth and DSSF)



Existing Funding System-*Likes*

- Underlying “rules” are clearly communicated and seem to be applied consistently across LEAs
- Funding flexibility through ABC Transfers (unfortunately related opportunities are decreasing)
- Once received, current year allotments are predictable
- Allotment System is easy to navigate



Existing Funding System-*Dislikes*

- Too many Allotment Revisions (just received revision #29 for current school year)
- Year-to-year funding is unpredictable
 - Difficult to plan for multi-year programs
- Budget cuts are, for the most part, passed-through without considering specific/differing circumstances at the LEA level
- Recovery of funding does not always follow State's economic recovery



Existing Funding System-*Dislikes*

- Penalties for non-compliance appear steep
- Charter schools play by different rules yet compete for same funding
- Easy to forget the purpose and intention of public education behind all of the funding “noise”; budget cuts, calculations, and compliance
 - At the end of the day, we all want to serve the young people of our State with quality education



Recommendations

- Maintain position allotments
- Fund new and growing charter schools via a direct allotment
 - Eliminate inefficiency of pass-through funding
- Acknowledge that all LEAs are not created equal
 - Economic recovery in Rowan County lags rest of State
 - Local funding is limited
 - Public education can break the poverty cycle in our county and is often a student's only source of care and hope
 - Must have consistent and adequate funding to support our unique needs





Thank you!

